



US009161776B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Mahaffey et al.**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,161,776 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Oct. 20, 2015**

(54) **DERMATOME BLADE ASSEMBLY**

(71) Applicant: **Zimmer Surgical, Inc.**, Dover, OH (US)

(72) Inventors: **Mark Mahaffey**, New Philadelphia, OH (US); **Bruce Straslicka**, Medina, OH (US)

(73) Assignee: **Zimmer Surgical, Inc.**, Dover, OH (US)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 278 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/933,234**

(22) Filed: **Jul. 2, 2013**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2013/0289582 A1 Oct. 31, 2013

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. 13/180,831, filed on Jul. 12, 2011, now Pat. No. 8,512,354.

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**A61B 17/50** (2006.01)  
**A61B 17/322** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
CPC ..... **A61B 17/322** (2013.01); **Y10T 29/49895** (2015.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
CPC ..... A61B 17/322; B26B 21/4018; B26B 21/4012; B26B 5/006; B26B 21/54; B26B 21/22; B26B 21/222  
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

2,457,772 A 12/1948 Barron  
3,428,045 A 2/1969 Kratzsch  
3,583,403 A 6/1971 Keller

3,670,734 A 6/1972 Hardy  
3,703,764 A \* 11/1972 Perry ..... 30/32  
3,724,070 A 4/1973 Dorion, Jr.  
3,786,563 A \* 1/1974 Dorion et al. .... 30/50  
3,820,543 A 6/1974 Vanjushin et al.  
3,857,178 A 12/1974 Stevens  
3,871,073 A \* 3/1975 Nissen et al. .... 30/34.2  
3,955,277 A \* 5/1976 Pomfret ..... 30/47  
3,979,798 A \* 9/1976 Meyer ..... 16/2.1  
4,026,016 A \* 5/1977 Nissen ..... 30/47  
4,038,986 A 8/1977 Mahler  
4,098,278 A 7/1978 Schwartz  
4,146,958 A \* 4/1979 Chen et al. .... 30/47  
4,251,914 A \* 2/1981 Grosjean ..... 30/32  
4,257,160 A 3/1981 Murai  
4,345,374 A \* 8/1982 Jacobson ..... 30/47  
4,754,756 A 7/1988 Shelanski  
4,854,043 A \* 8/1989 Chen ..... 30/50  
4,917,086 A 4/1990 Feltovich  
4,976,028 A \* 12/1990 Chen ..... 30/49  
5,003,694 A \* 4/1991 Chen ..... 30/49  
5,070,612 A 12/1991 Abatamarco

(Continued)

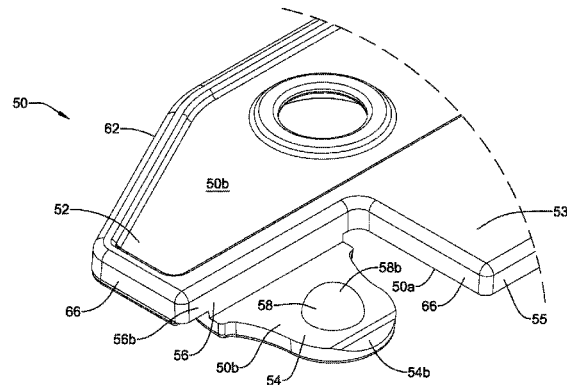
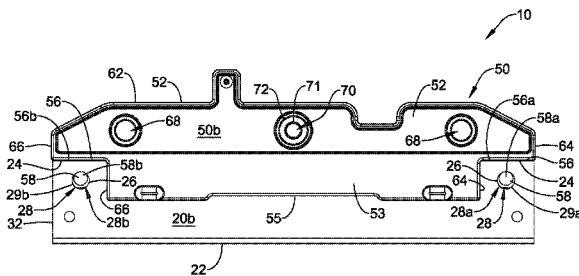
*Primary Examiner* — Jonathan W Miles

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Schwegman Lundberg & Woessner, P.A.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A dermatome having a blade assembly, where the blade assembly includes a blade and a blade mount. The blade may include a blade edge, a reference edge and at least one hole or receiver positioned between the blade edge and the reference edge. The blade mount may include a base, a blade locator extending from the base and at least one reference fence abutting the reference edge of the blade. The blade locator may include a protrusion for inserting into the hole or receiver of the blade. The blade and blade mount of the blade assembly may self align and provide for a simple and permanent connection.

**20 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets**



(56)

**References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,341,571	A *	8/1994	Prochaska	30/50	6,430,818	B1 *	8/2002	Wonderley	30/346.57
5,377,409	A	1/1995	Chen		7,191,523	B2 *	3/2007	Miyazaki et al.	30/50
5,526,567	A *	6/1996	Carson et al.	30/50	7,882,610	B2	2/2011	Gratsias et al.	
5,588,191	A	12/1996	Solbeck		8,002,779	B2 *	8/2011	Barker et al.	606/132
5,873,881	A	2/1999	McEwen et al.		2006/0254056	A1 *	11/2006	Coffin et al.	30/41
					2007/0220751	A1 *	9/2007	Gratsias et al.	30/32
					2009/0157095	A1	6/2009	Barker et al.	
					2009/0157096	A1	6/2009	Boles	

\* cited by examiner

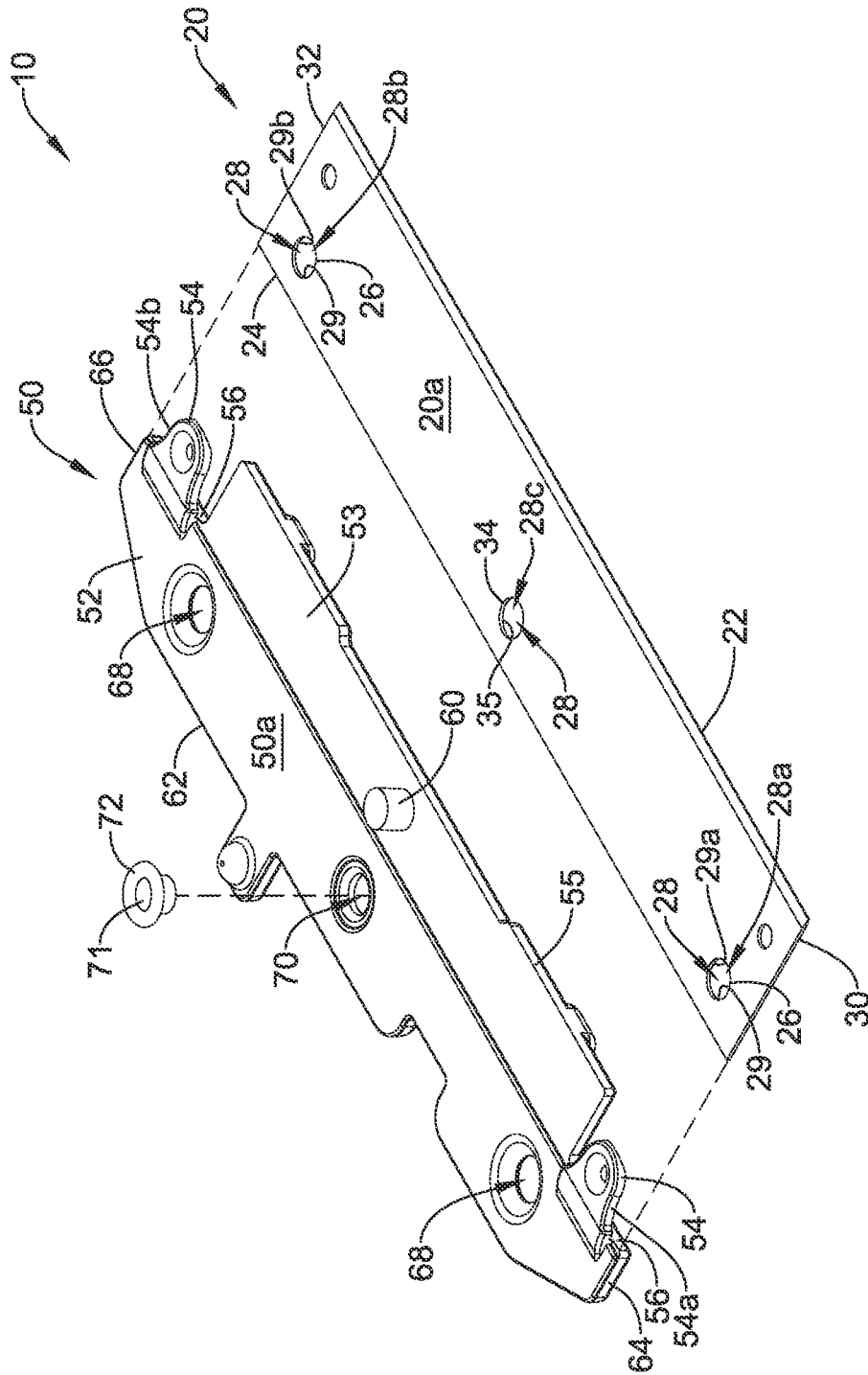


Figure 1

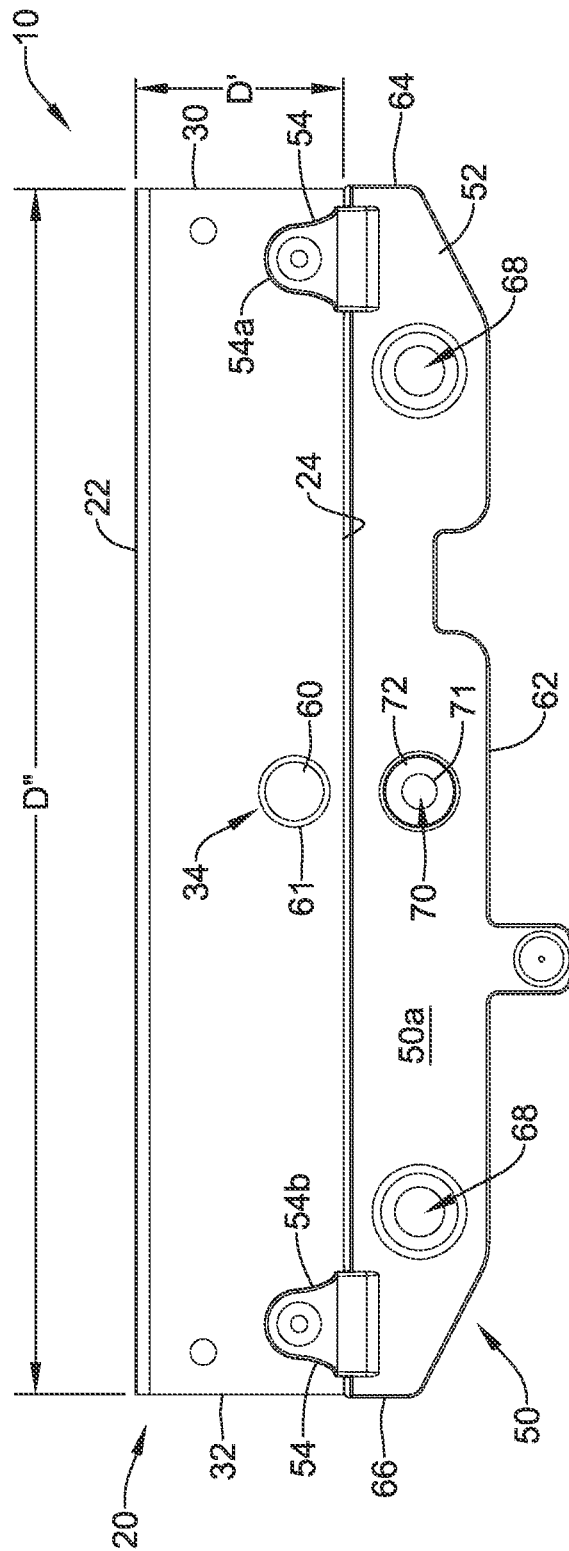


Figure 2

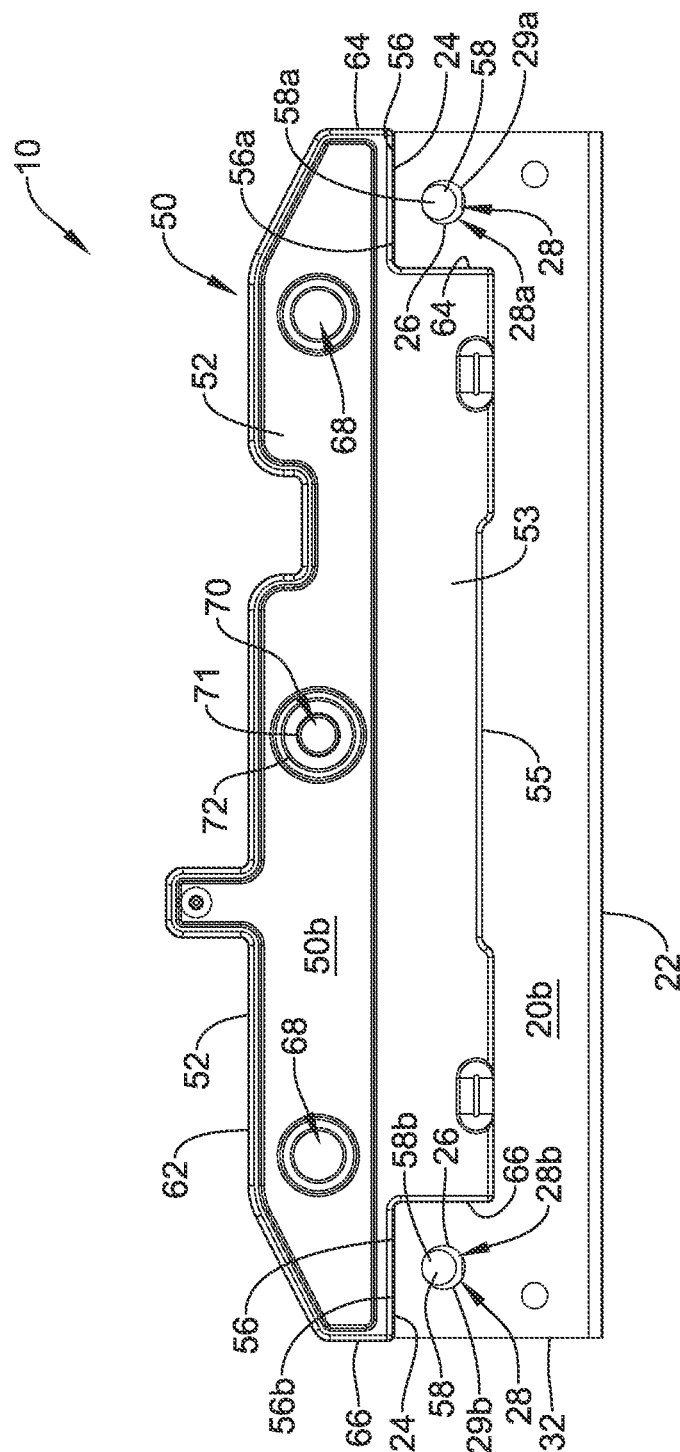


Figure 3

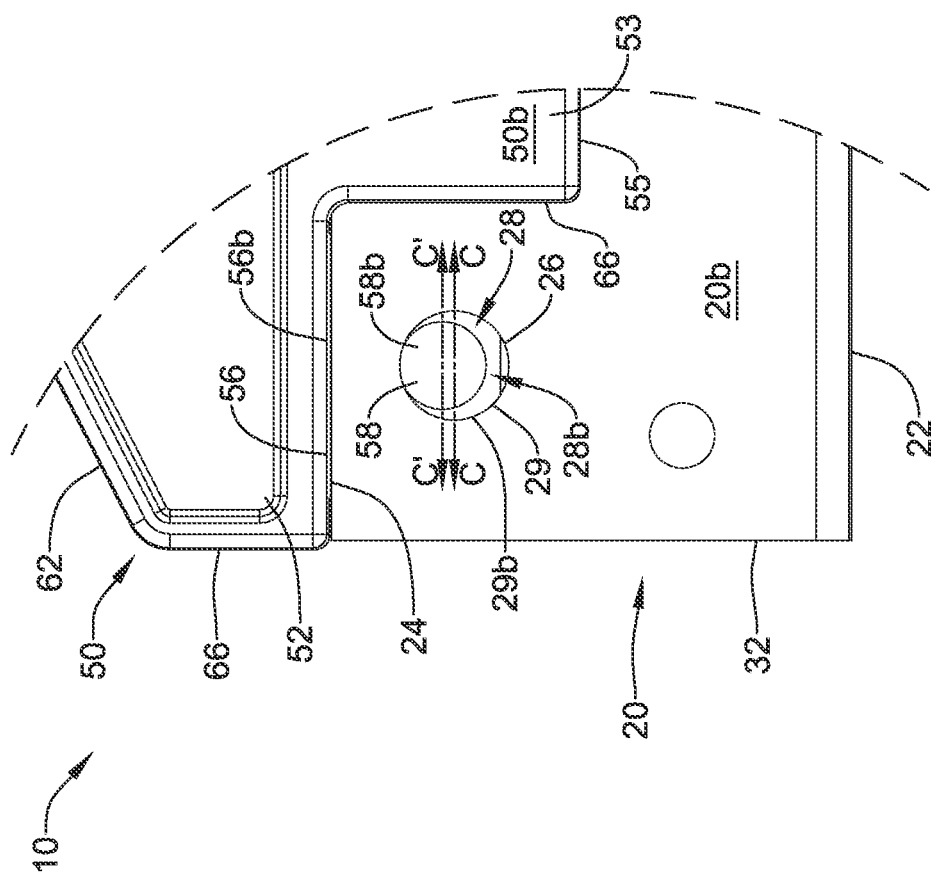


Figure 4

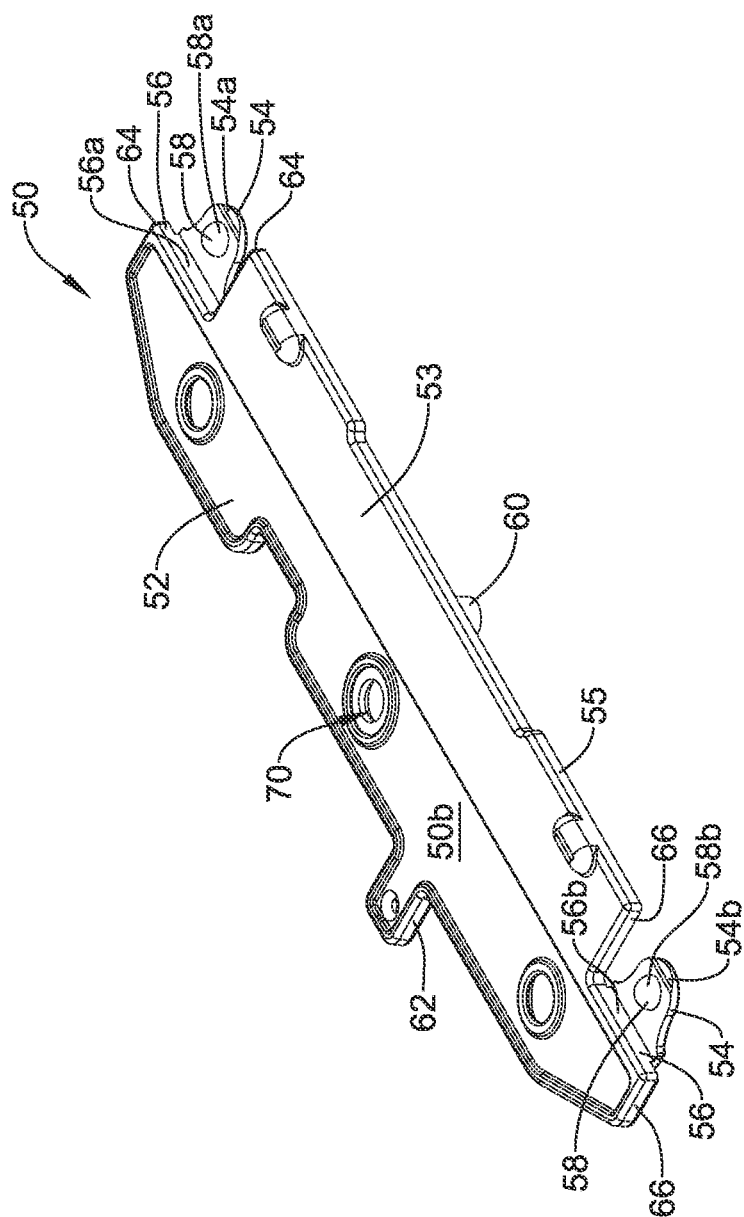


Figure 5

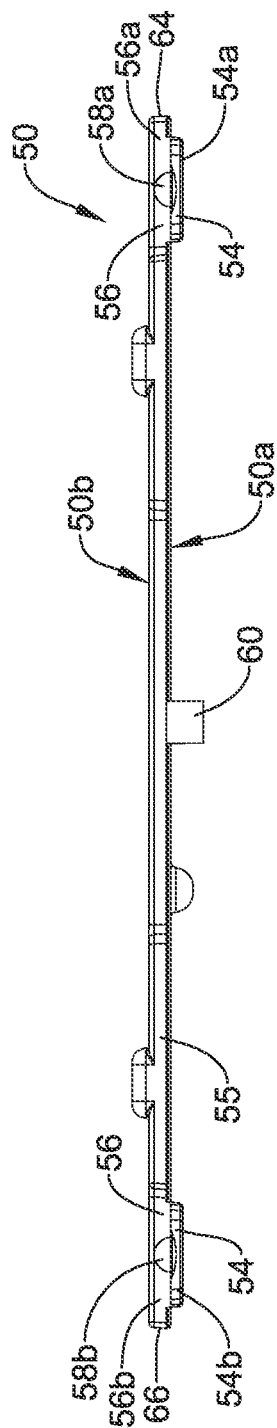


Figure 6



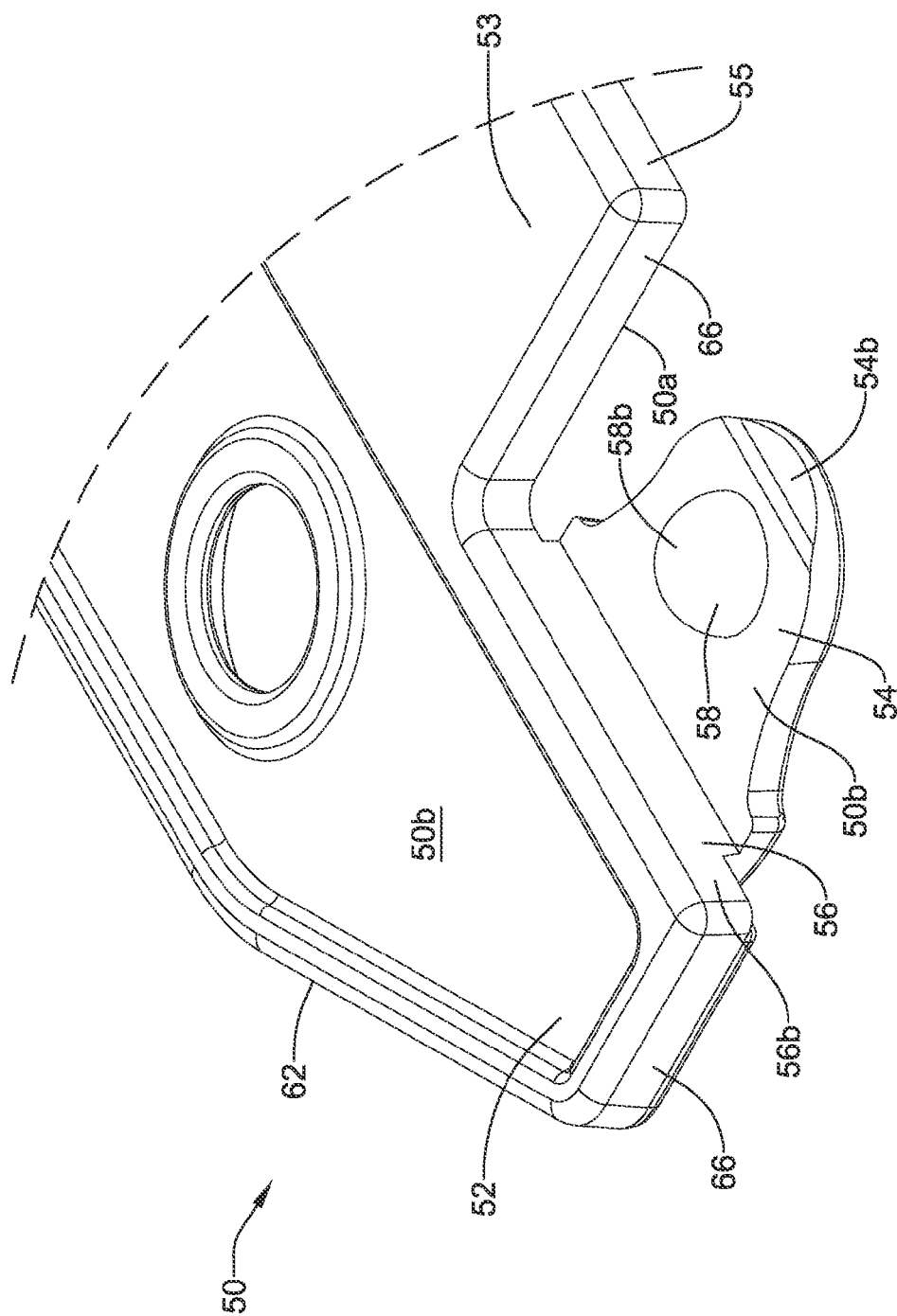


Figure 7

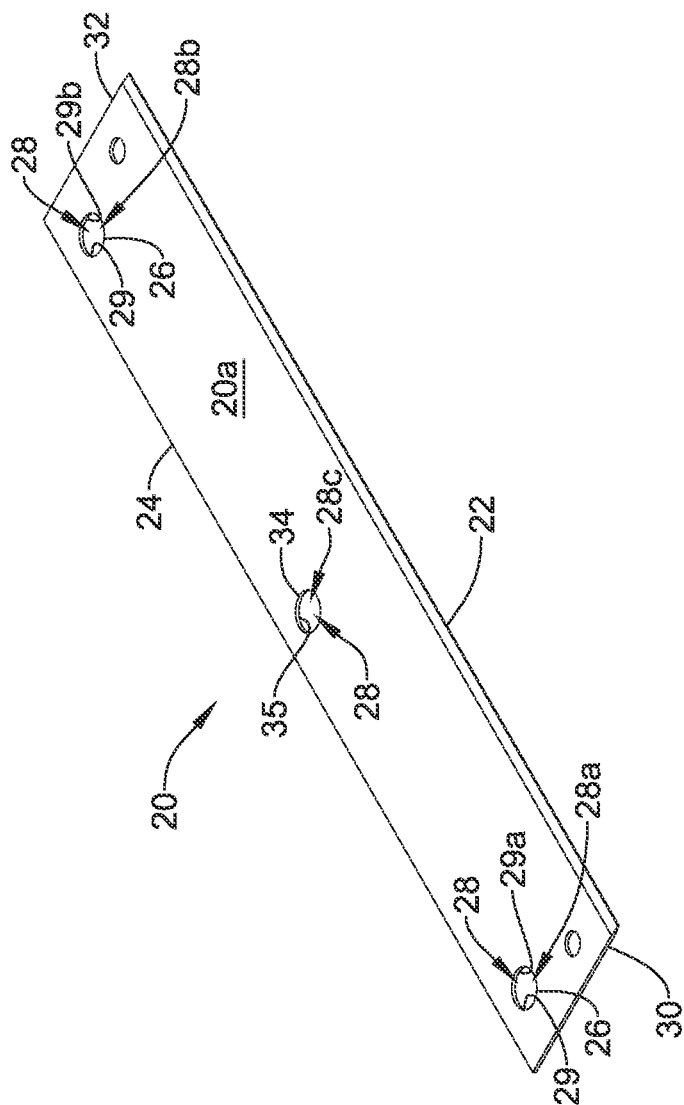


Figure 8

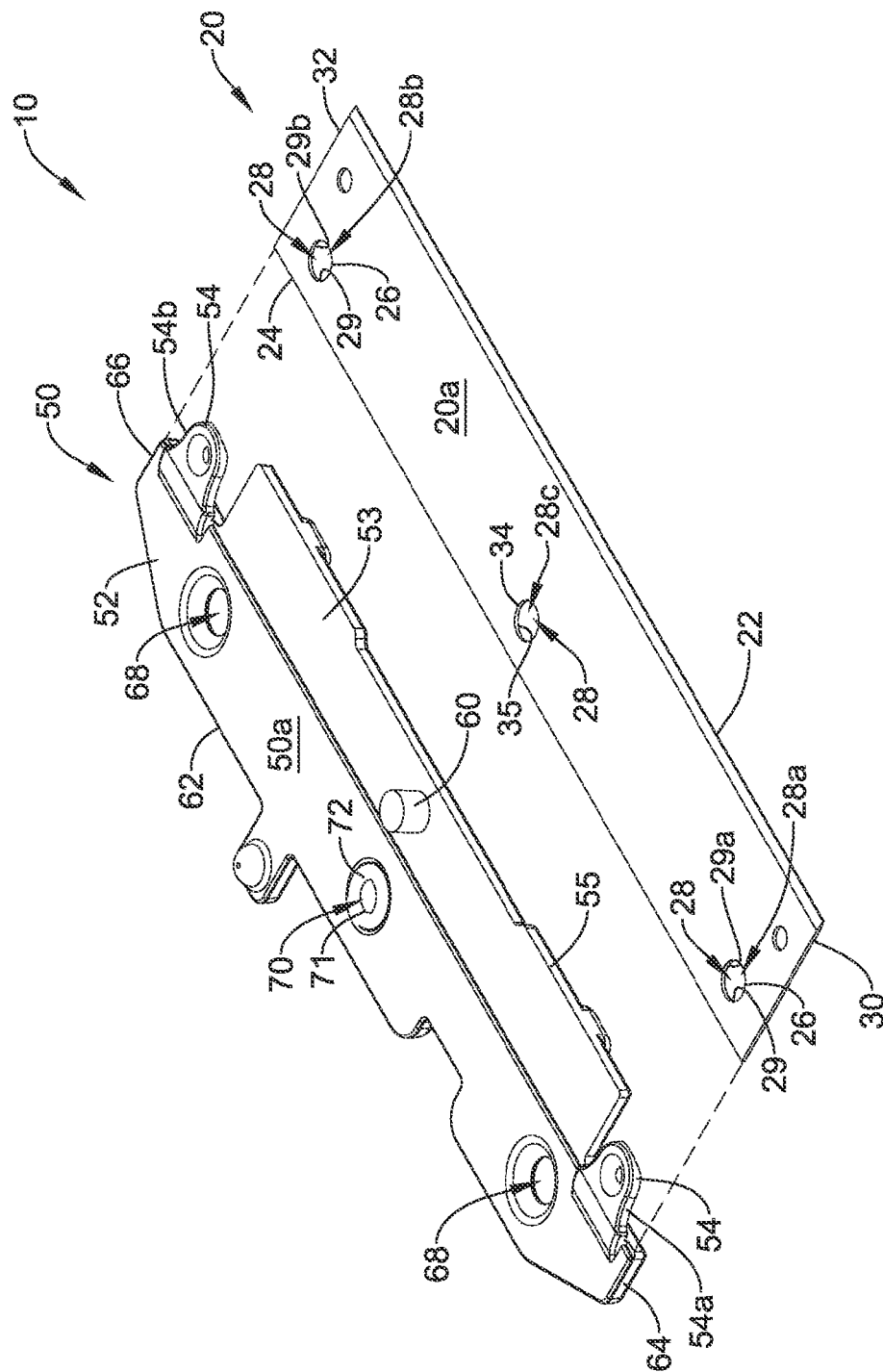


Figure 9A

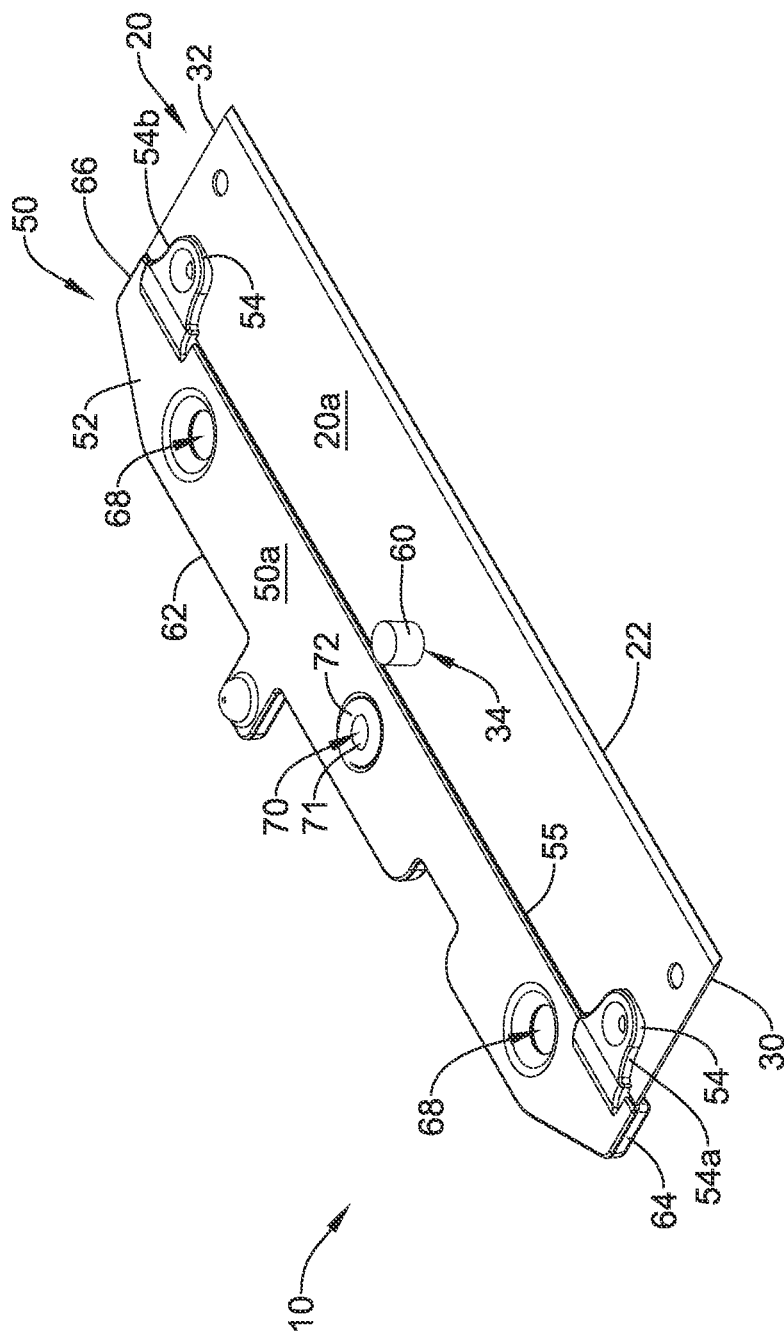


Figure 9B

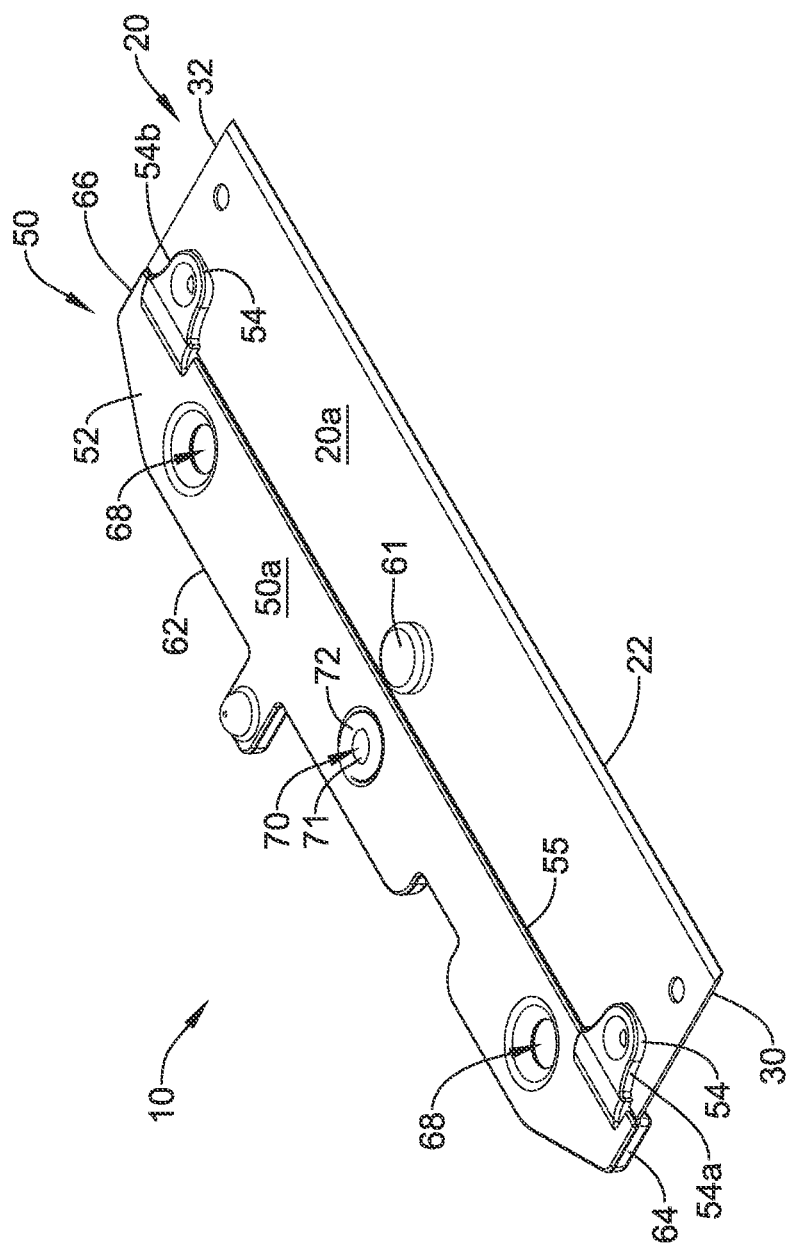


Figure 9C

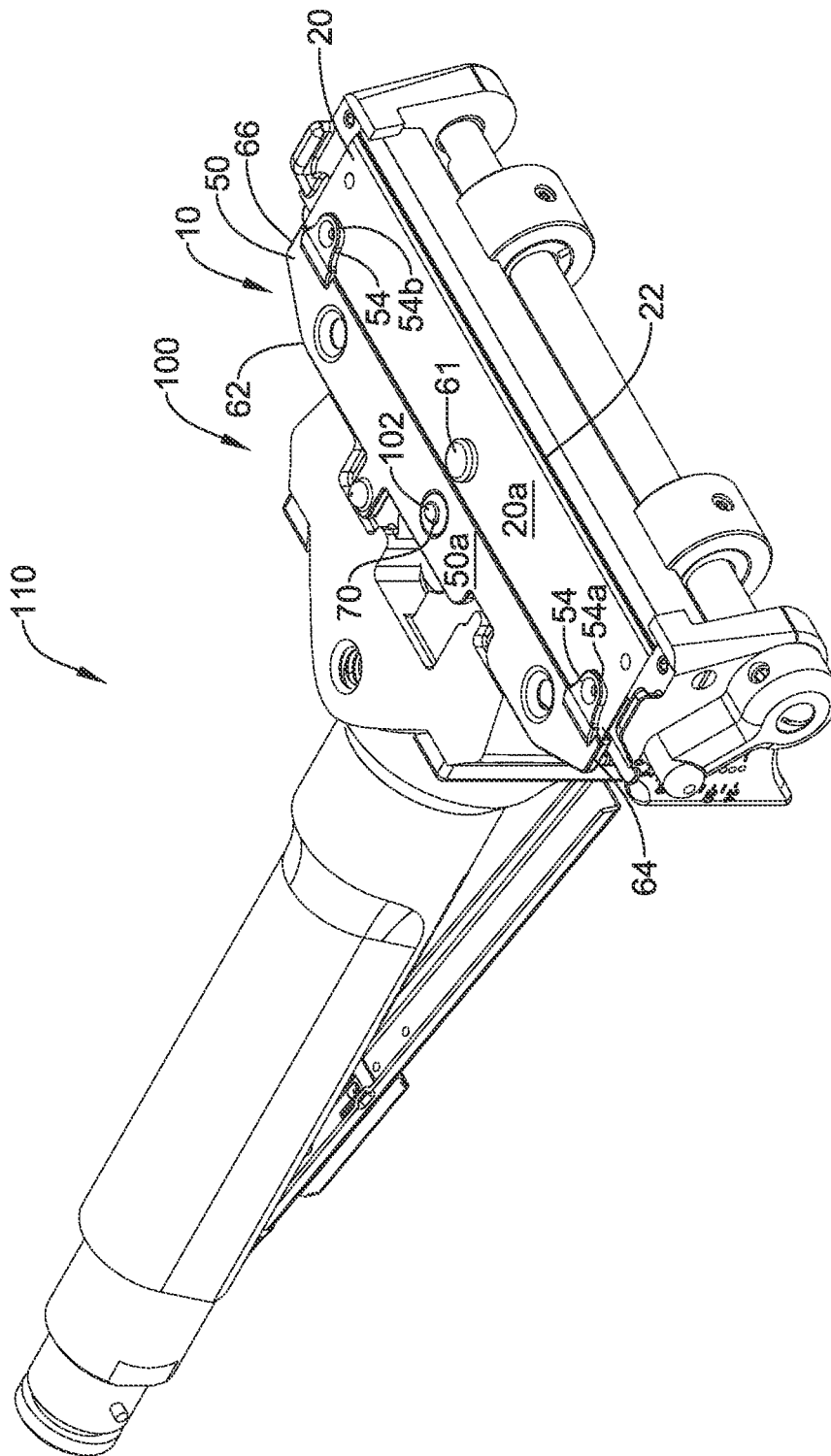


Figure 10

1

**DERMATOME BLADE ASSEMBLY****CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

The present application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/180,831, filed Jul. 12, 2011, the complete disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference.

**TECHNICAL FIELD**

The disclosure is directed to dermatomes for surgically harvesting grafts of skin. More particularly, the disclosure is directed to dermatome blade assemblies.

**BACKGROUND**

Conventional dermatomes are used for cutting skin tissue to obtain transplantable skin grafts. A skin graft is a patch of healthy skin that is harvested from one area of the body or donor site to cover a damaged or skinless area of the body. Typically, a dermatome has a front end holding a flat blade to be placed in contact with a tissue surface and a motor to oscillate the blade from side to side to create a slicing action which cuts the tissue as the dermatome is moved along the tissue surface.

**SUMMARY**

The disclosure is directed to several alternative designs, materials and methods of manufacturing medical device structures and assemblies. Although it is noted that conventional dermatomes exist, there exists a need for improvement of those devices.

Accordingly, one illustrative embodiment of the disclosure may include a dermatome blade assembly having a blade and a blade mount, where the blade and the blade mount are connected to one another. The blade may include a blade edge, a reference edge spaced from the blade edge and at least one receiver positioned between the blade edge and the reference edge. The blade mount may include a base, at least one blade locator and at least one reference fence. In alignment, the at least one reference fence may contact the reference edge and the at least one blade locator may communicate with the at least one receiver. The alignment and connection of the blade with the blade mount may allow for an aligned and simply assembled blade assembly without the use of complicated or time consuming manufacturing techniques.

The above summary of some example embodiments is not intended to describe each disclosed embodiment or every implementation of the disclosure.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The disclosure may be more completely understood in consideration of the following detailed description of various embodiments in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a dermatome blade assembly according to an aspect of the disclosure.

FIG. 2 is a top view of the dermatome blade assembly depicted in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a bottom view of the dermatome blade assembly depicted in FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is an enlarged bottom view of a portion of the dermatome blade assembly depicted in FIG. 3.

2

FIG. 5 is a front perspective view of blade mount features of a dermatome blade assembly according to an aspect of the disclosure.

FIG. 6 is a front view of the blade mount features depicted in FIG. 5.

FIG. 7 is an enlarged perspective view of a portion of the blade mount features depicted in FIG. 5.

FIG. 8 is a back perspective view of blade features of a dermatome blade assembly according to an aspect of the disclosure.

FIGS. 9A-9C depict a dermatome blade assembly in various stages of being assembled according to an aspect of the disclosure.

FIG. 10 is a bottom view of a dermatome according to an aspect of the disclosure.

While the disclosure is amenable to various modifications and alternative forms, specifics thereof have been shown by way of example in the drawings and will be described in detail. It should be understood, however, that the intention is not to limit aspects of the disclosure to the particular embodiments described. On the contrary, the intention is to cover all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives falling within the spirit and scope of the claimed disclosure.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

For the following defined terms, these definitions shall be applied, unless a different definition is given in the claims or elsewhere in this specification.

All numeric values are herein assumed to be modified by the term "about", whether or not explicitly indicated. The term "about" generally refers to a range of numbers that one of skill in the art would consider equivalent to the recited value (i.e., having the same function or result). In many instances, the term "about" may be indicative as including numbers that are rounded to the nearest significant figure.

The recitation of numerical ranges by endpoints includes all numbers within that range (e.g., 1 to 5 includes 1, 1.5, 2, 2.75, 3, 3.80, 4, and 5).

Although some suitable dimensions, ranges and/or values pertaining to various components, features and/or specifications are disclosed, one of skill in the art, incited by the present disclosure, would understand desired dimensions, ranges and/or values may deviate from those expressly disclosed.

As used in this specification and the appended claims, the singular forms "a", "an", and "the" include plural referents unless the content clearly dictates otherwise. As used in this specification and the appended claims, the term "or" is generally employed in its sense including "and/or" unless the content clearly dictates otherwise.

The following detailed description should be read with reference to the drawings in which similar elements in different drawings are numbered the same. The detailed description and the drawings, which are not necessarily to scale, depict illustrative embodiments and are not intended to limit the scope of the claimed disclosure. The illustrative embodiments depicted are intended only as exemplary. Selected features of any illustrative embodiment may be incorporated into an additional embodiment unless clearly stated to the contrary.

The present disclosure relates to the subject matter filed by inventors Mark Mahaffey and Bruce Straslicka and contained in the U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/180,977, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 8,636,749, titled DERMATOME BLADE ASSEMBLY GUARD having and the U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/180,925, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 8,608,755,

3

titled DERMATOME WITH WIDTH PLATE CAPTURES, both filed on Jul. 12, 2011, and which are both expressly incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Referring to FIGS. 1-10, a dermatome 110 for harvesting skin grafts of tissue may include a blade assembly 10 having a blade 20 and a blade mount 50. Blade 20 may include a blade edge 22, a reference edge 24 opposite blade edge 22, and at least one receiver 26 that may be positioned at least partially between blade edge 22 and reference edge 24. Receiver(s) 26 may include a first hole or opening 28a and a second hole or opening 28b, where holes 28a, 28b may be transversely spaced along blade 20 and may be positioned between blade edge 22 and reference edge 24. Blade mount 50 may include a base 52, an overlap portion 53, at least one blade locator 54 and at least one reference fence 56, where blade locator 54 may extend from base 52 and be offset from overlap portion 53 to receive blade 20 therebetween. Blade locator(s) 54 may include a first detent 58a (e.g., knob, extension, lip, protrusion, bump, etc.) and a second detent 58b (e.g., knob, extension, lip, protrusion, bump, etc.) protruding therefrom, where detents 58a, 58b may extend within holes 28a, 28b of receiver(s) 26 when assembled. When receiver(s) 26 align with blade locator(s) 54 and reference edge 24 contacts reference fence(s) 56, blade assembly 10 may be properly aligned for permanent assembly and use.

The Blade

As seen in FIGS. 1-4 and 8, blade 20 may include a first end edge 30 and a second end edge 32 opposite first end edge 30, where edges 30, 32 may extend between blade edge 22 and reference edge 24 at opposite ends of blade 20. End edges 30, 32 may have any desirable dimensions. For example, as seen in FIG. 2, end edges 30, 32 may have similar dimensions and may extend a first distance D', which may be less than (as shown) or greater than a second distance D'' that blade edge 22 spans between end edges 30, 32. Receiver(s) 26 of blade edge 22 may be a hole or opening 28 in, on, or through blade 20, where opening(s) 28 may have a perimeter 29 defining openings 28 therein.

Receiver 26 may include a first receiver 26a having first opening 28a and a second receiver 26b having second opening 28b, where holes or openings 28a, 28b may be at least partially defined by a first perimeter 29a and a second perimeter 29b, respectively, and each opening 28a, 28b may have a central line or axis C-C extending there through, as seen in FIGS. 4 and 8, which may be parallel to blade edge 22 and/or reference edge 24. Receiver(s) 26 may be located at any position on or in blade 20. For example, receiver(s) 26 may be at least partially defined by blade 20 and may extend from a first side 20a to a second side 20b of blade 20. Receivers 26 may be capable of receiving at least a portion of detent 58 extending from blade locator 54, where detent 58 extends from blade locator 54 in a direction of receiver 26.

Blade 20 may include a stake receiver 34, as seen in FIGS. 1, 2 and 8-9C. Stake receiver 34 may have a perimeter 35 defining boundaries of receiver 34, where perimeter 35 is at least partially defined by blade 20. Stake receiver 34 may have any shape or size having boundaries set by perimeter 35. For example, as seen in FIGS. 8 and 9A-9C, stake receiver 34 may be a hole or opening 28 (e.g., a third hole 28c) extending from first side 20a to second side 20b of blade 20. Opening 28c of receiver 34 may have a cross-section slightly larger than a cross-section of a mount stake 60 extending from blade mount 50 so as to be capable of receiving mount stake 60 there through, where the cross-sections of stake receiver 34 and stake 60 may be similarly shaped and may both have substantially circular cross-sections or cross-sections of other shapes, similar or not. Hole 28c of receiver 34 may be posi-

4

tioned at any location at least partially within end edges 30, 32, blade edge 22 and reference edge 24. For example, hole 28c may be positioned entirely within edges 22, 24, 30, 32 and may be spaced equidistant from first hole 28a and second hole 28b, in some instances.

Blade 20 may be made of any material capable of providing the described blade 20. For example, blade 20 may be made of a metal material such as a steel or any other suitable material. The Blade Mount

As seen in FIGS. 1-7 and 9A-9C, blade mount 50 may include base 52 at least partially defined by a front edge 55, reference fence 56, a profile edge 62, a first mount end 64 and a second mount end 66. Ends 64, 66, fence 56 and edges 55, 62 may form a perimeter defining base 52. Base 52 may further include at least one fastening hole 68 at least partially defined therein, as shown in FIGS. 1-3, 5, 7 and 9A-9C. Fastening hole(s) 68 may be used for any purpose; for example, fastening hole(s) 68 may be capable of receiving a fastener for attachment to a main body 100 or other object. For instance, fastening hole(s) 68 may be configured to receive alignment posts or protuberances of a blade guard or other detachable component.

Blade mount 50 may be made from a unitarily formed piece of material or multiple pieces connected to form blade mount 50, where each piece is made of the same or a different material. Blade mount 50 may be made of any material known in the art capable of being formed or manufactured as described herein. For example, base 52 may be made of a plastic material.

Blade mount 50 may include at least one reference fence 56. For example, blade mount 50 may include a first reference fence 56a and a second reference fence 56b, where reference fences 56a, 56b may be spaced apart, as depicted in FIGS. 3 and 6. In the example, reference fences 56a, 56b may be proximate mount ends 64, 66 and extend inward from ends 64, 66. Reference fence 56, in operation, may abut or contact reference edge 24 of blade 20 when blade assembly 10 is assembled or at other times.

Base 52, as depicted in FIGS. 1-3, 5 and 9A-9C, may have a drive eyelet 70. Drive eyelet 70 may be at least partially defined by base 52 and may have a perimeter 71 having a substantially circular cross-section. Drive eyelet 70 may be used for any purpose. For example, as seen in FIG. 10, drive eyelet 70 may be configured to receive an oscillating pin 102 extending from main body 100 when blade assembly 10 is mounted on a main body 100 of a dermatome 110. In the example, pin 102 may oscillate within eyelet 70 to provide reciprocating motion to blade assembly 10.

Drive eyelet 70 may be made out of any material. For example, a hole forming drive eyelet 70 may be formed within a plastic or other material of base 52 and the hole forming drive eyelet 70 may be reinforced with a drive eyelet cap 72 made of a metal or another suitable material. In the example, an illustrative metal material may be a brass material, a stainless steel material, or any other metal. The metal may reinforce drive eyelet 70 to limit or prevent damage caused by oscillating pin 102 coming into contact with perimeter 71 of drive eyelet 70.

As seen in FIGS. 1, 2, 5-7 and 9A-9C, blade mount 50 may include blade locators 54 extending from base 52. Blade locators 54 may extend from any portion of base 52. For example, blade locators 54 may extend from first side 50a of base 52, second side 50b of base 52 or reference fence 56 or a combination thereof or any other location on base 52 that allows reference edge 24 of blade 20 to contact reference fence 56. Blade locators 54 may extend from base 52 toward blade 20 and may contact an engaged blade 20 on at least first



5

side 20a or at another location on blade 20. Locators 54 may have detent 58 or other protrusion extending from a surface of locator 54 toward and/or into engagement with receiver 26. Detents 58 may extend from locator 54 in any direction capable of engaging receiver 26. For example, detents 58 may extend in a direction generally transverse to a plane of first side 50a. Detents 58 may be used for any purpose and in an example, detents 58 may be utilized for locating and engaging blade 20 and aligning blade mount 50 with blade 20 for final connection.

Locator(s) 54 may be offset from base 52, as seen in FIGS. 5, 6 and 7 to allow blade 20 to be positioned between overlap portion 53 and locator(s) 54. The off-set may allow blade mount 50 to receive blade 20 between first side 50a of base and second side 50b of locator 54 with reference fence 56 extending between first side 50a of overlap portion 53 of base 52 and second side 52b of locator 54 to contact reference edge 24 of blade 20. Blade 20 may be received within blade mount 50 such that first side 20a of blade 20 may contact second side 50b of locator 54 and second side 20b of blade 20 may contact first side 50a of overlap portion 53 of base 52, as seen in FIGS. 1-3.

Once locator 54 (e.g., detent 58 of locator 54) locates blade 20 and receiver 26, detents 58a, 58b may engage holes or openings 28a, 28b. Detents 58a, 58b may abut or contact portions of perimeters 29 nearest reference edge 24 so as to be off-centered within perimeter 29 of receivers 26. Off-centered may mean positioning detents 58a, 58b in respective openings 28a, 28b such that a central line or axis C'-C' across detents 58a, 58b (parallel to central line or axis C-C, and thus parallel to blade edge 22 and/or reference edge 24) is not in alignment with central line or axis C-C across openings 28a, 28b, as shown in FIG. 4. Blade 20 and blade mount 50 may communicate with one another such that when detents 58a, 58b are off-centered within openings 28a, 28b, detents 58a, 58b may press against perimeters 29 and reference edge 24 may press against reference fence 56. Thus, detent 58 may be positioned at any location on locator 54 allowing for detent 58 to be spaced a requisite distance from reference fence 56 such that when detent 58 contacts perimeter 29, reference edge 24 is pressed into contact with reference fence 56 to align blade 20 with blade mount 50. The contact between detents 58a, 58b and perimeters 29, along with the contact between reference edge 24 and reference fence 56, may limit movement of blade 20 with respect to blade mount 50 in at least first and second opposing directions lying in the plane of blade 20 and/or third and fourth opposing directions lying in the plane of blade 20 perpendicular to first and second directions. In some instances, engagement of detents 58a, 58b of locators 54 of blade mount 50 in openings 28a, 28b of blade 20, as well as aligning reference edge 24 against reference fence 56 while blade 20 is positioned between surfaces of locators 54 and a surface of overlap portion 53 of base 52 (with first side 20a of blade 20 facing locators 54 and second side 20b of blade 20 facing overlap portion 53 of base 52) prevents relative movement between blade 20 and blade mount 50 in all directions.

A stake 60 may extend from first side 50a or second side 50b of base 52 and may be positioned at any location on base 52, where stake 60 may be capable of extending through stake receiver 34 of blade 20. For example, stake 60 may extend from first side 50a of base 52 and may be located equidistant from a first blade locator 54a and a second blade locator 54b. Stake 60 may be integrally formed with base 52 or stake 60 (e.g., base 52 and stake 60 may be a unitary structure) may be connected with base 52 by any known connection technique.

6

Further, stake 60 may be made of any material and may be made of the same or similar material with which base 52 is formed.

The Assembly

Blade assembly 10 may allow for simple aligning and connecting of blade 20 with blade mount 50, as seen in FIGS. 9A-9C. In an illustrative assembly, blade 20 may be slid into contact with blade mount 50 (e.g., between locators 54 and overlap portion 53) and reference edge 24 of blade 20 may be abutted with reference fence 56 of blade mount 50 such that first side 20a of blade 20 may contact second side 50b of locator 54 and second side 20b of blade 20 may contact first side 50a of overlap portion 53 of base 52. At a same or similar time, detents 58a, 58b of blade locators 54 may be aligned with and inserted in openings 28a, 28b. Detents 58a, 58b may be partially or fully inserted into openings 28a, 28b. For example, detents 58a, 58b may be inserted into openings 28a, 28b such that first side 50a of blade locator 54 contacts second side 20b of blade 20 adjacent openings 28a, 28b. Detents 58a, 58b may be oriented in an off-centered manner with respect to a central line C-C of holes or openings 28a, 28b of receivers 26, as seen in FIGS. 3 and 4. That is, detents 58a, 58b may contact perimeters 29 of holes or openings 28a, 28b when in the off-centered orientation.

Once blade 20 and blade mount 50 have been aligned through inserting detents 58 into receivers 26 and/or abutting reference edge 24 with reference fence 56, or during alignment, blade mount 50 may be connected to blade 20 by engaging the two pieces 50, 20 or by another operation. The connection may be a permanent connection or a nonpermanent connection. A permanent connection may be an irreversible connection where two or more pieces that are connected cannot be unconnected without materially altering at least one of the pieces or deforming at least one piece. The engagement between blade mount 50 and blade 20 may be accomplished by inserting mount stake 60 of blade mount 50 into and through stake receiver 34 of blade 20. To finalize the engagement between the blade 20 and blade mount 50, inserted stake 60 may be heated and/or deformed to form a button 61. When hardened and/or deformed, button 61 may contact and overlap first side 20a of blade 20 such that blade 20 may not be separated from blade mount 40 without materially altering the formed button 61 or other portions of blade mount 50 or blade 20. Once blade assembly 10 is assembled, it may be mounted on a main body 100 of a dermatome 110 or blade assembly 10 may be used for any other purpose.

The disclosed blade assembly 10 may eliminate or mitigate the need to measure a location of blade 20 with respect to blade mount 50 because of the included receivers 26, blade locators 54, reference edge 24, reference fence 56 and other features that may work together to precisely align blade 20 and blade mount 50.

Those skilled in the art will recognize that the present disclosure may be manifested in a variety of forms other than the specific embodiments described and contemplated herein. Accordingly, departure in form and detail may be made without departing from the scope and spirit of the present disclosure as described in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A dermatome blade assembly, comprising:
  - a blade having a first side and a second side, the blade including:
    - a blade edge;
    - a reference edge spaced from the blade edge; and
    - at least one receiver positioned between the blade edge and the reference edge;

7

a blade mount including:  
 a base having an overlap portion;  
 at least one blade locator extending from the base; and  
 at least one reference fence extending from the overlap  
 portion to the at least one blade locator; and  
 wherein:  
 the at least one reference fence of the blade mount abuts  
 the reference edge of the blade, and  
 the first side of the blade is in contact with the at least one  
 blade locator and the second side of the blade is in  
 contact with the overlap portion of the blade mount.  
**2.** The assembly of claim **1**, further comprising:  
 a stake receiver at least partially defined by the blade; and  
 a mount stake extending from the overlap portion; and  
 wherein the mount stake extends through the stake receiver  
 from the second side of the blade to the first side of the  
 blade.  
**3.** The assembly of claim **2**, wherein the mount stake  
 extending through the stake receiver is deformed to form a  
 button and permanently connect the blade to the blade mount.  
**4.** The assembly of claim **1**, further comprising:  
 a detent protruding from the at least one blade locator and  
 the detent extending into the at least one receiver from  
 the first side of the blade.  
**5.** The assembly of claim **4**, wherein:  
 the at least one receiver is an opening extending through the  
 blade and the opening has a perimeter; and  
 the detent contacts the perimeter of the opening and the  
 detent is off-centered within the opening.  
**6.** The assembly of claim **1**, wherein the at least one blade  
 locator is offset from the base to allow the at least one refer-  
 ence fence of the blade mount to contact the reference edge of  
 the blade.  
**7.** The assembly of claim **1**, wherein the blade mount is  
 monolithic.  
**8.** The assembly of claim **1**, wherein the blade is formed of  
 metal and the blade mount is formed of plastic.  
**9.** A blade assembly for a dermatome, the blade assembly  
 comprising:  
 a blade having a first side and a second side opposite the  
 first side, the blade including:  
 a blade edge; and  
 a reference edge spaced from the blade edge; and  
 a monolithic blade mount coupled to the blade, the mono-  
 lithic blade mount including:  
 a first blade locator;  
 a second blade locator;  
 an overlap portion; and  
 a reference fence; and  
 wherein the first blade locator and the second blade locator  
 are in contact with the first side of the blade, and the  
 overlap portion is in contact with the second side of the  
 blade with the reference fence of the blade mount abut-  
 ting the reference edge of the blade.  
**10.** The assembly of claim **9**, wherein the reference edge  
 extends from the first side of the blade to the second side of the  
 blade.  
**11.** The assembly of claim **9**, wherein the blade further  
 comprises:

8

a first hole extending through the blade from the first side of  
 the blade to the second side of the blade; and  
 a second hole extending through the blade from the first  
 side of the blade to the second side of the blade, and  
 wherein the first hole and the second hole are spaced apart  
 transversely along the blade and are positioned between  
 the blade edge and the reference edge.  
**12.** The assembly of claim **11**, wherein the blade mount  
 includes:  
 a first detent extending from the first blade locator into the  
 first hole of the blade from the first side of the blade;  
 a second detent extending from the second blade locator  
 into the second hole of the blade from the second side of  
 the blade.  
**13.** The assembly of claim **12**, wherein:  
 the first detent extending into the first hole of the blade and  
 the second detent extending into the second hole of the  
 blade urge the reference edge of the blade against the  
 reference fence of the blade mount; and  
 the first detent is off-centered within the first hole and the  
 second detent is off-centered within the second hole.  
**14.** The blade assembly of claim **9**, further comprising:  
 a mount stake extending from the overlap portion of the  
 monolithic blade mount; and  
 a third hole at least partially defined by the blade and  
 extending from the first side of the blade to the second  
 side of the blade;  
 wherein the mount stake extends into the third hole from  
 the second side of the blade to the first side of the blade.  
**15.** The blade assembly of claim **9**, wherein the first and  
 second blade locators are offset from the overlap portion.  
**16.** A method of forming a dermatome blade assembly  
 comprising:  
 abutting a reference edge of a blade with a reference fence  
 of a blade mount, the blade mount including a base  
 having an overlap portion positioned in contact with a  
 first side of the blade and a blade locator extending from  
 the base and positioned in contact with a second side of  
 the blade, the blade locator including a detent; and  
 inserting the detent of the blade mount into a receiver of the  
 blade, wherein the inserted detent is in an off-centered  
 orientation with respect to a center axis of the receiver  
 while the reference edge abuts the reference fence.  
**17.** The method of claim **16**, wherein the receiver is a hole  
 defined by the blade and the hole has a perimeter, and  
 abutting the perimeter of the hole with the inserted detent  
 of the blade mount while the reference edge abuts the  
 reference fence.  
**18.** The method of claim **16**, further comprising:  
 connecting the blade mount to the blade, and  
 wherein the connecting step includes engaging a mount  
 stake of the blade mount with a stake receiver of the  
 blade.  
**19.** The method of claim **18**, wherein the engaging step  
 includes inserting the mount stake through the stake receiver.  
**20.** The method of claim **19**, wherein the engaging step  
 includes heating the inserted mount stake to deform the  
 mount stake and permanently affixing the blade mount to the  
 blade.

\* \* \* \* \*